UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

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S/PRST/1996/47
20 December 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3726th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 December 1996 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Somalia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is gravely concerned at the resumption of fighting in Mogadishu, where the latest clashes are taking an increasingly heavy toll in human lives. It is deeply concerned, in particular, at the plight of the civilian population, whose suffering is increased even further by the fighting.

"The Security Council calls on all Somali factions to cease immediately all hostilities and to restore an effective ceasefire.

"The Security Council fully supports the efforts of the countries of the region as well as of international and regional organizations, in particular the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, to facilitate a political settlement of the crisis in Somalia. It appeals to all Somali factions to join in such efforts and to start a process of national reconciliation aimed at the establishment of a broad-based national Government.

"The Council reaffirms its commitment to a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the situation and to report to the Council on any further development.

"The Security Council reminds once again all States of their obligations to implement fully the general and complete embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia.

"The Security Council reaffirms its appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who carry out humanitarian activities in Somalia and calls upon all Somali factions to ensure the safety of all the personnel involved."

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3727th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 December 1996 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Croatia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the report of the Secretary-General of 5 December 1996 (S/1996/1011 and Corr.1), submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1019 (1995) on Croatia.

"The Security Council acknowledges notable progress in the humanitarian situation, in particular measures taken by the Government of Croatia to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of the Croatian Serb population.

"Although the security situation has improved slightly, the Security Council, however, expresses its concern at continued acts of harassment, looting and physical attacks against Croatian Serbs and, in particular, involvement by Croatian uniformed military and police officials in a number of those incidents. It calls upon the Government of Croatia to intensify its efforts to improve the security situation and to ensure adequate security conditions for the local Serb population including the urgent re-establishment of a functioning court system in the former sectors North and South.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned that in spite of its previous requests there has been little progress on the issue of the return of the Croatian Serb refugees and urges the Government of Croatia to adopt a comprehensive approach in order to facilitate the return of refugees originating from Croatia to their homes of origin throughout Croatia. It deplores the continued failure by the Government of Croatia to safeguard effectively their property rights, especially the situation where many of those Serbs who have returned to the former sectors have been unable to regain possession of their properties. The Council calls upon the Government of Croatia to apply immediately proper procedures to the question of property rights and to stop all forms of discrimination against

the Croatian Serb population in the provision of social benefits and reconstruction assistance.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned at reports that the new amnesty law is not being implemented in a fair and equitable manner. It underlines that equitable application of that law is vital for building confidence and promoting reconciliation in Croatia as well as for the peaceful reintegration of the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of the commitments undertaken by the Government of Croatia in relation to the Council of Europe, including its signature of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and expects that the Government of Croatia will implement those commitments fully and without delay.

"The Security Council reiterates its call upon the Government of Croatia to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and to conduct investigations into and the prosecution of all persons accused of serious violations of international humanitarian law, especially those committed in the course of military operations in 1995.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter and requests that the Secretary-General continue to report on the situation, in any case no later than 10 March 1997."

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3729th meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 December 1996 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council notes that the Special Commission and the Government of Iraq previously agreed that the investigation of unilateral destruction of proscribed items is a fundamental area to accelerate the verification of the Iraqi Declarations. In this regard, the Council deplores the refusal by Iraq to allow the Special Commission to remove approximately 130 missile engines from Iraq for analysis by a team of international experts under the Special Commission. The Council notes that such action complicates the implementation by the Special Commission of its mandate.

"The Security Council reaffirms that a full accounting for Iraq's missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres is a necessary prerequisite to enable the Commission to report that Iraq has complied with the requirements of section C of resolution 687 (1991). The Council fully supports the intention of the Special Commission to carry out thoroughly the examination and analysis in the missile area, either on the basis of dispatching international teams of experts to Iraq or examining the relevant items abroad.

"The Security Council reminds the Government of Iraq of its obligation to comply with the provisions of the relevant resolutions and the need to cooperate fully with the Special Commission in order to enable it to report that the requirements of section C of resolution 687 (1991) are met. In this perspective, the Council affirms that Iraq is required to allow the Special Commission to remove the missile engines from its territory. The Council welcomes any proposal from Member States to offer their national facilities to the Special Commission in order to enable it to conduct the necessary analysis, if and when the Commission deems it necessary.

"The Security Council strongly reaffirms its full support for the Special Commission in the conduct of its mandate under the relevant resolutions of the Council. The Council reaffirms the right and privileges of UNSCOM as stated in its previous relevant resolutions and in particular its resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991) and 715 (1991)."